

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
May 18, 2012

Makah Marina Conference Room
Neah Bay, WA

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Myles (Chip) Boothe, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Chip Boothe (WDOE, Chair), Ellen Matheny (Education, Secretary), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate), Jan Newton (Research), Frank Shipley (US Geological Survey), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Heather Reed (WDFW), Kevin Ryan (USFWS), Les Bolton (Tourism/Recreation Alternate), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe Alternate), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe Alternate), Brady Scott (WDNR, Vice Chair), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG Alternate), Diane Butorac (WDOE Alternate), Sandra Burke (Conservation), George Hart (U.S. Navy), Tom Mumford (Research Alternate), Kevin Duffy (NMFS), David Hudson (Hoh Tribe), Mike Doherty (Clallam County Commissioner)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Micah McCarty (Chair, Makah Tribal Council), Ian Miller (WA Sea Grant), Kimberly Kerr (U.S. Navy), John Mosher (U.S. Navy), Rich Osborne (North Olympic Lead Entity and North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee), Eric Roberts (University of Michigan), Maggie Wenger (University of Michigan), Kristina Geiger (University of Michigan), Dave Gershman (University of Michigan), Chad Bowechop (Makah Office of Marine Affairs), Dotti Chamblin, Shaari Unger (U.S. Navy)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Nancy Wright, Bob Steelquist, Lauren Bennett, Kevin Grant, Ed Bowlby

ACTION ITEMS:

- Lauren Bennett will send a reminder e-mail to all AC members that the July 2012 AC meeting is being moved from July 20 to July 13.
- Lauren Bennett will send out a link to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's television program, Your Sanctuary.
- Post March-May Office Report on-line

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Micah McCarty welcomed the Advisory Council (AC) to Neah Bay and the Makah Tribal lands. He welcomed the room with a song that is about all of our ancestors and the water we all carry in all of us.

Internal Affairs:

Chip Boothe asked if there were changes to the agenda. There were none and the agenda was accepted unanimously.

Chip brought up issue of July meeting, which was scheduled for Friday, July 20th in Seattle. Several conflicts have arisen with the meeting and the AC Executive Committee has become worried that there will not be enough AC members in attendance on the 20th to reach a

quorum. The Executive Committee recommended the July meeting be moved to Friday, July 13. The meeting will still be held at the University of Washington in Seattle. Chip asked members to consider and comment. There was unanimous consensus that Friday, July 13th, will be the date of the next AC meeting. ***Lauren Bennett will send a reminder to the AC via e-mail.***

Brady Scott welcomed Katrina Lassiter, who just began with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Katrina is an aquatic policy analyst with DNR in Olympia. She started in February 2012, coming from Washington D.C., where she worked for several members of Congress and also served as a NOAA Knauss Policy Fellow. She has a Master's degree from the UW School of Marine Affairs and completed her master's thesis with the NW Straits Commission.

Chip asked if there were any corrections to the March meeting notes. There were no corrections, but a note was made that efforts to fill the new Marine Resources Committee seat on the AC (mentioned on page 3 of the March notes) is ongoing. The March notes state that the seat was to be filled by May, but that has not happened yet. Jan Newton moved to adopt the March notes and Brady Scott seconded. The March meeting notes were adopted by unanimous consent.

Chip gave a report on the national AC chairs webinar summit that was held in April. Instead of having all the chairs meet in person they tried a 3-hour webinar meeting (funds limited the in-person meeting). The topic of the meeting was the Campaign for Engagement. ONMS Director Dan Basta wants to use the ACs to help create a populist movement to engage communities in ocean affairs, conservation and the goals of the national marine sanctuaries. He went over one of the presentations given during the webinar on the Sanctuary Landscape in 2012. Chip then asked the AC to think about what the OCNMS AC's role should be in helping the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) leadership with the Campaign for Engagement.

Chip gave some examples of what types of work could be done to promote the Campaign. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) got local news stations to show the sanctuary boundaries on the weather report maps. MBNMS has also developed its own TV show: Your Sanctuary (***Lauren will send out a link to this***). An example of something that could be done up in the OCNMS region is to work with the Seattle Aquarium to make sure the Windows on Washington exhibit mentions its connection to OCNMS. Jan Newton suggested more thought be put into ways to engage the Seattle community via social meeting and on-line videos. Les Bolton suggested that focusing ocean conservation outreach efforts on children (8-10 year olds).

Chip wrapped up by stating that Bill Douros (ONMS West Coast Regional Director) is intending to host a west coast-only AC chairs meeting (in person) in August. Director Basta is also trying for an in-person national AC chairs meeting in the fall, though it is uncertain whether this will happen.

Superintendent's Report:

Carol briefly went over the March-May OCNMS office report, which was handed out to members. ***The Office Report will be posted on-line shortly.*** On Friday, May 11th, the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) held a meeting and there was a robust discussion on how the IPC and OCNMS can work together on setting research priorities. Carol noted that OCNMS recently completed an update to its facilities report.

A proposal to conduct seabird surveys using a Unmanned Aircraft System (AUS) did not get prioritized for 2012, but might get funding in 2013. OCNMS will be deploying water quality monitoring moorings next week (they will be out from May to October). OCNMS staff have just started a 6-week training for new volunteer and Olympic Coast Discovery Center docents. The Area to be Avoided (ATBA) compliance rates have been calculated and were pretty much the same as the previous year (98%). Joel Kawahara noted that the Canadian Coast Guard is going to close the Tofino station; that change could affect the ATBA data. The 2011 Vessel Traffic Report for Washington is available on-line now.

The 12th annual Washington Coast Cleanup happened in April. Volunteers removed 33 tons of marine debris. OCNMS is now including a section on sanctuary permitting in the Office Report and Liam provided a brief summary.

University of Michigan Study of OCNMS Institutional Relationships:

Eric Roberts, Maggie Wenger, Kristina Geiger and Dave Gershman, graduate students at the University of Michigan, presented their Master's project, External Evaluation of the Effectiveness of OCNMS's Institutional Relationships. Both the study and the executive summary of the study can be found on-line on the OCNMS Advisory Council website.

The team used a survey to measure the satisfaction people have interacting with OCNMS. The survey included nine different topics. Both multiple choice and open-ended questions were asked. The survey examined how people defined collaborative and coordinated management; what were accomplishments stemming from OCNMS's partnerships, preferred communication methods, partner satisfaction with OCNMS, and ways OCNMS could improve relationships. The survey was sent to 95 people and 43 surveys were completed. In general, respondents were satisfied with OCNMS, valued their relationships with OCNMS and saw a role for OCNMS in ocean initiatives.

The challenges that OCNMS faces in building and growing its partnerships include: geography, lack of funding, communication, low sense of accomplishment, and working with the Coastal Treaty Tribes. Respondents, particularly tribal respondents, wanted to be more included in decision-making process. In terms of its relationships with the Coastal Treaty Tribes, the tribal respondents had a low sense of accomplishment in their work with OCNMS. Tribal respondents noted that differences in culture, lack of a shared goal, and mistrust of the management process were all challenges to building a more effective relationship with OCNMS.

Survey respondents provided many suggestions for ways OCNMS could work to improve its institutional relationships; and these suggestions are included in the final report. In conclusion,

the team suggested OCNMS has built a strong foundation for collaboration but people have different expectation for collaboration and different barometers for gauging success. Federal respondents think OCNMS is doing really well, especially in comparing OCNMS to other agencies. Tribes are evaluating OCNMS against their desire for co-management. Some partners, like shippers, conservationists are interested in very specific issues. The team's final report recommends:

- Involving tribes in research; build bridges with tribes on climate change research
- Sharing the dilemma (recognizing different definitions of collaboration/coordination)
- Continuing the conversation
- Continuing supporting the IPC – this is a unique body and a unique opportunity
- OCNMS and AC continue to support the OCNMS staff

The team thanked AC and staff for all their help and support and opened the conversations up for questions. Dottie Shamlin, Makah elder, expressed a concern for marine artifacts removed from tribal lands and waters. Kevin Duffy asked if the students offered more detailed recommendations in the full report. The students stated that there are recommendations in the report, but the goal of the report was to conduct the survey and analyze the results, not necessarily to tell OCNMS and the AC what to do. Carol suggested that staff and the AC think about the study results and how to address some of the issues raised in the report.

Jennifer Hagen thanked the group for all their hard work and made a point of clarification. Tribes are not organizations; they are governments and communities. She suggested that the AC spend more time talking about this report. Brady Scott noted that one of OCNMS's performance measures in the management plan is to repeat the survey. He asked if the survey questions could be used again so that staff could look at changes over time. The team stated that their report provides guidance on how to do a scaled-down version of their survey (which was very lengthy). Carol said we need to think about how we would repeat this study. Joel Kawahara asked if we can improve our coordination/collaboration by doing more of what we do now or if we need to do new/different things. Kristina said it is probably both – keep doing what you're doing, but maybe trying new and different things. Dana Sarff noted that the Makah have been having internal discussions about ocean acidification and that that topic is really high on the agenda of the Makah. Carol thanked the team for all their work.

Update on OCNMS Education Program

Bob Steelquist, OCNMS's Education and Outreach Coordinator, gave an update on Education Program. Bob supervises a staff of 1 FTE, a half-time graphic designer, several part-time education folks and a half-time intern. Almost all of the education program dollars are tied up in contractors/staff. The Seattle Aquarium has been a solid partner, and in 2006, OCNMS began collaborating with the Seattle Aquarium on the Ocean Science program which received funding for a 5-year program. That program has ended, but as a result, 4th and 5th grade education programming has been developed for the entire coast. OCNMS continues to working with partners in providing marine science education programs.

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center is a major outreach program for the sanctuary. It is open 7 days a week from Memorial to Labor Day due to operating and facility maintenance costs. The OCDC receives about 16,000 visitors per operating season.

Bob also administers the Bay-Watershed Education Training (B-WET) fund for the Pacific Northwest. These are NOAA dollars that go into place-based education in Oregon and Washington. This year they are spreading \$640K over three projects in WA and three in OR.

The education staff are also working on a revision to the OCNMS Long-Range Interpretive Plan, and will be engaging the AC. OCNMS has a very active Facebook page and recently redesigned the sanctuary website. The new website is a lot richer in terms of serving data. The goal of the Facebook page is to move people to the website. Tom Mumford commented that Facebook page isn't very interactive. Bob remarked that OCNMS is limited as a federal agency in how it plays in the social media environment. Katrina Lassiter asked if we can use Twitter and Youtube. Bob said that there is a national sanctuary Youtube channel. Twitter has not been pursued out on the Olympic coast.

A member of the public asked who has jurisdiction in the sanctuary. Bob Boekelheide asked if financial support was continuing for the Makah cooperative interpretative program/naturalist guide based at Cape Flattery. Bob Steelquist said that, yes, OCNMS has increased funding to the Makah interpretive program. Les Bolton commented that this type of program could be used as a model for working with all the tribes to tell these stories to a wider audience.

Chad Bowechop (head of the Makah Office of Marine Affairs) asked for a few minutes to respond to Dottie Shamlin's (Makah Tribal elder) concerns expressed earlier. Chad noted that the Makah Tribe was involved in the development of OCNMS. He noted that the AC represents other than just tribal interests, and that the Makah are part of the Intergovernmental Policy Council which makes sure that the tribal interests are represented. He stated that the reason there are not many tribal members on the AC is that they invest most of their time and energy in the IPC.

Dottie stated that she does not want artifacts leaving the reservation and expressed her concern about coral and anything else leaving the Makah reservation. Chad stated that the Makah are working to establish a MOA between the Makah and OCNMS that would define protocols for things like how artifacts are collected. Chad thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak and respond to these questions and concerns.

U.S. Navy Training and Testing EIS Briefing

John Mosher and Kimberly Kerr from the U.S. Navy gave an update on the Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement process. Shaari Unger, based out of Keyport, is also involved in the project and was present at the AC meeting.

The Training and Testing EIS is for 2015-2020. The goal of the document is to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Executive Order for Overseas Action. This EIS will

basically review (and combine) several current EISs for the future time period of 2015-2020. They will be reanalyzing previously covered activities as well as new activities (and new geographic areas). They will be pulling together two past EISs into one new EIS with additional activities. This new EIS will streamline the permitting process and will also be compliant with the Marine Mammal Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Three alternatives will be analyzed in the EIS, a no action alternative, a preferred alternative and a third alternative, which will consist of the preferred alternative plus some additional increases in the type and tempo of training and testing events. John went through the environmental resources to be analyzed in the EIS. Carol asked if the Navy will be using existing information or will collect new information. John said the Navy is currently funding a lot of studies (particularly that relate to marine mammals) and this information will be incorporated as it is published. Tom Mumford asked if there were any similar Navy EISs in progress and will there be sharing of information between EIS projects. John said that there are other similar projects ongoing in other regions. Tom asked if mitigation measures would be the same across the board (for the Navy in all regions). John said yes and no; in some cases there are mitigation requirements that are specific to specific regions.

The EIS scoping phase closed at the end of April. Carol noted that OCNMS provided comments through NMFS, which is a cooperating agency on the EIS. Steve Joner asked John to discuss jurisdictional issues in study areas that overlap with Canadian and international waters. Kimberly said that the 250-mile width of the study area is historical and that there is a lot of debate about the actual jurisdictional lines. The Navy solely addresses US laws.

Dottie Shamlin expressed concerns about naval nuclear waste dumped off the coast in Makah waters and stated that she would like the Navy to clean up this waste. John stated that as part of the EIS process all the tribes would be consulted, the Makah included. John said that he couldn't speak to the issue of nuclear waste.

Joel Kawahara asked if there was a scoping document available. Kimberley said that there would a scoping summary posted on-line in the next month or two. John briefly reviewed the topics of concern that came up in the scoping process.

John gave an update on what training activities are occurring in OCNMS and what will be analyzed in the EIS:

- In 2011, no training with active sonar was conducted in OCNMS. The Navy tries to avoid the sanctuary if at all possible.
- Training with explosives doesn't occur in OCNMS
- Training use of airspace in OCNMS occurred as permitted
- For this new EIS (2015-2020) no new training activities are proposed in OCNMS

John gave an update on what testing activities are occurring in OCNMS and what will be analyzed in the EIS:

- In 2011, no testing activities were conducted within OCNMS under the purview of the Keyport Range Extension EIS
- Anticipated activities for 2012 will be consistent with those described in the Range Extension EIS
- For this new EIS, no new testing activities are proposed within OCNMS

John went over the timeline for the new EIS:

- Developing draft EIS/OEIS (April 2012 to fall 2013)
- Release draft EIS (fall 2013)
- Public meetings (fall 2013)
- Release final EIS (spring 2015)
- Record of decision (summer 2015)

Ellen Matheny asked for contact information for the Navy. She expressed concern that the Navy has jurisdiction to do whatever it wants to do in its area and can use this authority to override environmental compliance issues. John stated that the Navy is obligated to work through all environmental compliance and has to obey those laws unless there is some special provision (and in the past such provisions have not been made; such provisions would have to come from the White House).

Carol thanked the Navy for the presentation and asked about increases in the level/number of activities conducted the sanctuary. John stated that, under the new EIS, generally speaking, no new activities are proposed and he doesn't think that there will be big increases in the number of activities. In the testing arena, there might be new systems used in the sanctuary. Or they might look at using "softer" sonar, but more frequently. Carol stated that it is challenging for the AC to understand what is happening within the sanctuary boundaries.

Micah McCarty (Chair of the Makah Tribal Council) commended the Navy for establishing a relationship with the tribes and expressed his appreciation that the tribes were allowed to participate at such a high level. Micah stated that he looks forward to participating in the government to government consultation process. John thanked Micah and stated that he takes great pride in working for the Navy and its commitment to environmental stewardship.

Climate Change Panel Discussion

Brady Scott introduced himself as panel moderator and explained that the purpose of this panel was to learn, and seek guidance from, experts on climate change in the Olympic Coast region in order to assist OCNMS and its Advisory Council in implementing the OCNMS Climate Change Action Plan. He reviewed the OCNMS climate change action plan and introduced the panelists. The panelists then each gave a brief introduction and talked about their work on climate change and their interest in the issue. The panelists were Micah McCarty (Chair of the Makah Tribal Council), Bob Steelquist (OCNMS Education and Outreach Coordinator), Dr. Ian Miller (Coastal Hazards Specialist, WA Sea Grant) and Dr. Jan Newton (Senior Principal Oceanographer, Applied Physics Lab, University of Washington).

Brady then asked the panelists to respond to four primary questions.

- 1) One of the primary strategies in the Action plan is to establish the sanctuary as a sentinel site. What ecosystem components do we need to characterize to pose the sanctuary as a sentinel site?
- 2) Looking beyond researching and monitoring climate change on the Olympic Coast, what will it mean for communities and ecosystems to adapt to climate change on the Olympic Coast?
- 3) One of the key roles of the sanctuary identified in the Climate Change Action Plan is to communicate information about climate change and its effects on the sanctuary to the public. What work is OCNMS currently doing on this front and what work are you looking to do in the future?
- 4) How is the Makah Tribe being affected by climate change? How are you working to address the issue of climate change?

The panelists responded at length to each of these questions and an audio recording of the discussion can be obtained by contacting Liam Antrim at liam.antrim@noaa.gov or 360.457.6622 x16.

Member Reports:

Chip asks if there were any member reports. Joel Kawahara noted that Essential Fish Habitat proposals will be due to the Pacific Fishery Management Council in September.

Future agenda topics:

- Essential Fish Habitat Proposals
- Jennifer Hagen would like to see where the shipping lanes currently are relative to the ATBA. Is the ATBA big enough? Are ships getting larger?
- Further discussion of the University of Michigan study

The next Advisory Council meeting is July 13, 2012 at the University of Washington, Seattle.